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## **\$73,350 TO CRAWFORD COUNTY FOUNDATION FROM USDA**

### ***“CHILD CARE FACILITY TO BENEFIT FROM NEW CHILD DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY EQUIPMENT AND SECURITY FENCING”***

In a mock check presentation, the Crawford County Foundation received \$73,350 from USDA Rural Development to finance child development activity equipment and security fencing. The ceremony was held on Friday, October 1, 2004, at the All Aboard Learning Center in Cuba, MO. The new equipment and fencing will benefit up to 90 children in their early childhood development. The project is funded by the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Loan and Grant program.

“I’m pleased that Rural Development was able to be involved in such a valuable project, said Greg Branum, State Director for Missouri USDA Rural Development. “This new child care facility will provide a valuable service to this community.”



Greg Branum is seen presenting the check to Rachel Andreasson, President of the Board of Directors (holding the check in the white sweater), and the Facility Director, Janell Cheek, is on the far left holding her little girl.

Janell Cheek, Director of the new facility, said, “This is a happy day for us here at the All Aboard Learning Center and we want to thank all of you who have supported us so generously with your contribution to the facility. We are anxious now to put this beautiful new center to use.”

“Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities,” Branum added. “Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Kenny Hulshof for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo> or by contacting Jack Kearbey, Rural Development Specialist in Houston, Missouri by calling 417-967-4525.

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